

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An air bearing slider comprising:  
a slider body including a leading edge, a trailing edge and opposed sides and including an elongate length between the leading and trailing edges forming a leading edge portion, a trailing edge portion and an intermediate portion proximate to a center axis of the slider body and a cross width between the opposed sides and the intermediate portion having a length dimension no larger than length dimensions of the leading edge portion and the trailing edge portion and the ~~trailing edge portion having a cross nodal portion and off nodal portions and the cross nodal portion having a cross width dimension no larger than a cross width dimension~~ slider body including a center portion and opposed side of the off nodal portions; and the ~~slider body including~~  
a raised bearing surface or surfaces elevated above milled surface or surfaces and ~~the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the trailing~~leading edge portion of the slider body having a narrow cross ~~profile~~width within the ~~cross nodal~~center portion of the slider body ~~to limit off nodal pressurization and the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the intermediate portion having an expanded cross width profile relative to the cross width profile of the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the trailing~~leading edge portion of the slider body.
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) The slider of claim ~~24~~28 wherein the divergent bearing surface or surfaces include~~raised bearing~~

~~surface or surfaces include opposed angled side rails angled outwardly in a direction of the trailing edge and including a trailing edge center pad spaced from the opposed sides of the slider body.~~

4. (currently amended - withdrawn) The slider of claim ~~21~~ wherein the intermediate portion includes a raised cross rail forming the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the intermediate portion of the slider body ~~having an expanded cross width dimension along the intermediate portion of the slider body and a shortened length dimension along the intermediate portion of the slider body.~~

5. (currently amended- withdrawn) The slider of claim 4 wherein the raised cross rail includes opposed side portions ~~on opposed sides of the slider body and the opposed side portions of the raised cross rail~~ include leading edge trenches to pressurize the raised bearing surface or surfaces of the raised cross rail.

6. (currently amended- withdrawn) The slider of claim ~~21~~ wherein the intermediate portion includes a stepped cross rail providing a stepped interface ~~for the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the intermediate portion of the slider body.~~

7. (currently amended) The slider of claim ~~21~~28 wherein the ~~raised~~divergent bearing surface or surfaces include raised bearing rails on opposed sides of a cross axis of the slider body along ~~an~~the intermediate portion of the slider body ~~spaced from the leading and trailing edges of the slider body and the raised bearing rails angled outwardly in a direction toward the trailing edge of the slider body to form the narrow leading edge cross profile width along a leading edge portion and the expanded~~

intermediate cross ~~profile~~-width along the intermediate portion of the slider body.

8. (currently amended) The slider of claim 7 wherein the raised bearing rails extend from a raised center pad ~~relative to opposed sides raised bearing surface having a narrow cross width profile~~ and the slider including a stepped bearing surface elevated from a cavity surface having a narrow cross width ~~profile~~ along the leading edge portion and an expanded ~~profile~~ width along the intermediate portion of the slider body, wherein the raised bearing rails and the raised center ~~raised bearing surface~~ pad are formed on the stepped bearing surface.

9. (currently amended- withdrawn) The slider of claim ~~211~~ wherein the slider body includes a cavity surface or surfaces recessed below the raised bearing surface or surfaces and the leading edge includes opposed corner portions proximate to the opposed side ~~portions~~ and the trailing edge includes opposed corner portions proximate to the opposed side ~~portions~~ and each of the opposed corner portions forms the cavity surface or surfaces.

10. (previously presented - withdrawn) The slider of claim ~~211~~ wherein the intermediate portion includes a stepped cross rail having a shortened length dimension along the intermediate portion of the slider body and an expanded stepped cross ~~profile~~ dimension.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) An air bearing slider comprising:

a slider body having a leading edge, a trailing edge, opposed sides and a cross width between the opposed sides; ~~and the slider body including~~  
a raised bearing surface or surfaces elevated above a recessed surface or surfaces and the raised bearing surface or surfaces having a narrow cross width profile ~~including narrow cross width profiles along a leading and trailing edge portions of the slider body —and an expanded cross profile along an intermediate portion of the slider body having a length dimension no larger than the leading and trailing edge portions of the slider body to limit off nodal pressurization~~ and a raised center portion spaced from opposed sides proximate to the trailing edge of the slider body.

Claims 13-14 (Cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The slider of claim 12 wherein the raised bearing surface or surfaces include divergent bearing rails or surfaces which extend outwardly ~~toward the opposed sides of the slider body in a direction of the trailing edge of the slider body~~ from a raised center portion along the leading edge portion of the slider body.

16. (currently amended) The slider of claim 15 and further including a stepped bearing surface recessed from the raised bearing surface or surfaces and elevated above a cavity surface and the divergent bearing rails or surfaces are formed on the stepped bearing surface.

Claims 17-19 (cancelled)

20. (previously presented) An air bearing slider comprising:

a slider body including a leading edge, a trailing edge and opposed sides; and  
bearing surface means on the slider body for providing a nodal bearing pressure profile to limit off nodal pressurization.

21. (currently amended) An air bearing slider comprising:  
a slider body having a leading edge, a trailing edge and opposed sides; and  
a raised bearing surface or surfaces having a perimeter surface profile including a narrow leading edge cross profile width, an expanded intermediate cross profile width and a trailing edge profile having a narrow profilecross width relative to the expanded intermediate profilecross width ~~to limit off nodal air pressurization~~ and a raised center pad proximate to the trailing edge spaced from opposed sides of the slider body.

22. (currently amended) The slider of claim 3 wherein the angled side rails extend from a raised center portion ~~relative to opposed sides~~ ~~raised bearing surface portion~~ having a narrow width dimension to provide the narrow profilecross width for the raised bearing surface or surfaces proximate to the leading edge of the slider body.

23. (currently amended) The slider of claim 3 and comprising a leading edge stepped surface elevated from a cavity surface and recessed from the raised bearing surface or surfaces of the angled side rails.

24. (previously presented) The slider of claim 3 wherein the slider body includes a stepped bearing surface having a tapered outer profile elevated from a cavity surface and the angled side rails are formed on the tapered stepped bearing surface.

25. (currently amended) The slider of claim ~~24~~28 wherein the ~~raised bearing surface or surfaces include a divergent bearing surface including a tapered leading edge proximate to the leading edge of the slider body and the divergent bearing surface extends outwardly from the tapered leading edge in a direction of the trailing edge and including a stepped bearing surface~~ recessed from the raised surface or surfaces proximate to the divergent bearing surface or surfaces to pressurize the divergent bearing surface or surfaces.

Claims 26-27 (cancelled).

Claim 28 (currently amended) The slider of claim ~~27~~21 wherein the raised bearing surface or surfaces include divergent bearing surface or surfaces ~~include opposed rails extending from the tapered leading edge~~ extending along an intermediate portion of the slider body.

29. (new). The slider of claim 12 and including stepped bearing surface or surfaces recessed from the raised bearing surface or surfaces and elevated above a cavity surface.